

T-960
"Old Point Comfort"
Oxford
Private

c. 1900

Distinguished by its large size and several unusual details, the property commonly known as "Old Point Comfort" provides significant architectural variety to North Morris Street when compared to the other houses and store buildings nearby. This two-part house was originally erected as a combination house and store. The private dwelling, obscured by trees, is set back from the street. The two-story side hall, three-bay house features a decorative turned post porch enriched with a sawn eave decoration and a rooftop balustrade. Projecting forward from the residence and dominating the property is a large two-and-a-half story gable-front section designed to house a commercial business. Distinctive to the first floor elevation is a side entrance flanked by diamond shaped windows framed by bulls-eye block surrounds. The entrance wall is recessed under an engaged porch supported by Tuscan columns. A bay window pierces the wall on the other side of the front door. While several combination dwelling/store structures were erected in Oxford during the late nineteenth century, only a small number retain their original architectural form.

The combination house and store structure was erected around the turn of the twentieth century on a lot that had been improved previously. The 1891 Sanborn Insurance map indicates an ell-shaped dwelling on the lot, but by 1896 when the next map was published the lot was vacant. By 1901 the outline of a structure conforming to the extant house and store was indicated at this site. During these years the property was held by Miss Annie L. Harrison, who purchased the property from Ormond Hammond, a trustee for

Samuel Stewart. She held title to the property from 1893 until the early 1920s when a court settlement forced its sale. The origin of its current name, "Old Point Comfort," is not certain.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: "Old Point Comfort"

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-960

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling and store

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-960

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Annie Harrison House

and/or common "Old Point Comfort"

2. Location

street & number 218 North Morris Street not for publicationcity, town Oxford vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Wade Robert Fuller

street & number 218 North Morris Street telephone no.:

city, town Oxford state and zip code Md 21654

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 568
liber 841

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 19

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

repository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T--960

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The property known as "Old Point Comfort," formerly combining a house and store, is located at 218-218B North Morris Street in Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story main block faces west with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Dating around 1900, the two-and-a-half story ell-shaped main block contains a side hall/parlor dwelling on the south side and a large-gable front frame section on the north. The large gable-front frame structure was originally used as commercial space. Supported on a low brick foundation, the exterior is clad with a combination of original weatherboards and aluminum siding. The various gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) elevation is an uneven ell-shaped facade with the entrance wall of the domestic half recessed well back of the commercial front. The domestic front is defined by a side entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. A boldly molded and paneled door is framed by a large two-light transom and two-light sidelights, and the adjacent windows retain louvered shutters. Sheltering the first floor is a turned post porch embellished with sawn brackets and a rooftop balustrade. Three two-over-two sash windows light the second floor.

The west entrance wall of the commercial block is set back under an engaged porch supported by paired Tuscan columns supported on brick plinths. The porch columns rise to a mid-level cornice embellished with incised scroll decoration. The main entrance is located in the south bay and is distinguished by a pair of quirky diamond-shaped windows on the south side and a six-pane transom above. The window openings, set diamond point to diamond point, are framed by bulls-eye block surrounds. The opposite bay is marked by a three-sided bay window. A large single-pane window on the flat side is flanked by narrow single pane windows to each side. The knee wall of the bay is defined by a series of long rectangular panels, and the cornice is embellished with a saw-tooth shaped decoration. The corners of the first floor are embellished with decorative corner boards that have large decorative medallions. The second story is pierced by a series of three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The expansive gable end above is covered with various bands of fishscale shingles with a large tripartite center window. The eaves are extended with returns at the base of the roof.

The north side of the commercial block is defined by an asymmetrical fenestration of two-over-two sash windows. Centered on the steeply pitched roof is a cross gable. A single flue brick stove chimney rises through the gable end.

The interior is divided into multiple apartments, and each space was not inspected. The commercial side of the building has a long narrow passage that extends the depth of the building. Centered halfway down the hall is a turn of the 20th century newel post with paneled sides, egg-and-dart panel moldings and a pyramidal cap carved with foliate forms. The high ceiling is covered with narrow tongue-and-groove beaded boards.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-960

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Distinguished by its large size and several unusual details, the property commonly known as “Old Point Comfort” provides significant architectural variety to North Morris Street when compared to the other houses and store buildings nearby. This two-part house was originally erected as a combination house and store. The private dwelling, obscured by trees, is set back from the street. The two-story side hall, three-bay house features a decorative turned post porch enriched with a sawn eave decoration and a rooftop balustrade. Projecting forward from the residence and dominating the property is a large two-and-a-half story gable-front section designed to house a commercial business. Distinctive to the first floor elevation is a side entrance flanked by diamond shaped windows framed by bulls-eye block surrounds. The entrance wall is recessed under an engaged porch supported by Tuscan columns. A bay window pierces the wall on the other side of the front door. While several combination dwelling/store structures were erected in Oxford during the late nineteenth century, only a small number retain their original architectural form.

The combination house and store structure was erected around the turn of the twentieth century on a lot that had been improved previously. The 1891 Sanborn Insurance map indicates an ell-shaped dwelling on the lot, but by 1896 when the next map was published the lot was vacant. By 1901 the outline of a structure conforming to the extant house and store was indicated at this site.¹ During these years the property was held by Miss Annie L. Harrison, who purchased the property from Ormond Hammond, a trustee for Samuel Stewart.² She held title to the property from 1893 until the early 1920s when a court settlement forced its sale.³ The origin of its current name, “Old Point Comfort,” is not certain.

¹ Sanborn Insurance maps, 1891, 1896, 1901. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

² Talbot County Land Record, 120/171, November 9, 1893.

³ Talbot County Land Record, 194/363, January 26, 1923.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-960

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 10/11/98

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

T-960
"Old Point Comfort"
218 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

Map 400, Parcel 568

841/19 Sandra B. Showell

to

10/21/1996 Wade Robert Fuller

MAS 813/590 Mae McAlery (formerly Mae Franklin Kammert) and
Sandra B. Showell

JTB 505/480 John P. White, Assignee

to

9/30/1976 Mae Franklin Kammert
Sandra Boyd Coyner
(Public Sale, pursuant to the power of sale contained in
a certain mortgage from John W. Cassidy to Mark C.
Ewing and W. Moorhead Vermilye, 5/3/1974,
JTB 483/559

JTB 783/557 Mark C. Ewing
W. Moorhead Vermilye

to

5/3/1974 John W. Cassidy

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"Old Point Comfort"
218 North Morris Street
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Chain of title continued

Page 2

452/38 The Memorial Hospital at Easton

to

5/14/1971 Mark C. Ewing
W. Moorhead Vermilye

Will Book
30/431 Last Will and Testament of James H. Mills

to

10/2/1950 The Memorial Hospital at Easton

205/151 James B. Morrow

to

1/19/1926 Lulu V. Mills
James H. Mills

\$3,400

CBL 204/142 Sophia M. Schroeter and husband George H. Schroeter

to

10/20/1925 James B. Morrow

\$400

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"Old Point Comfort"
218 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

194/363

Joseph B. Seth, trustee

to

1/26/1923

Sophie M. Schroeter

\$795 Whereas by a Decree of Circuit Court, 10/17/1922,
between Kate Orem and Frank S. Orem and other
complainants and Kate Harrison and others
defendants

120/171

Ormond Hammond, Trustee of Samuel Stewart

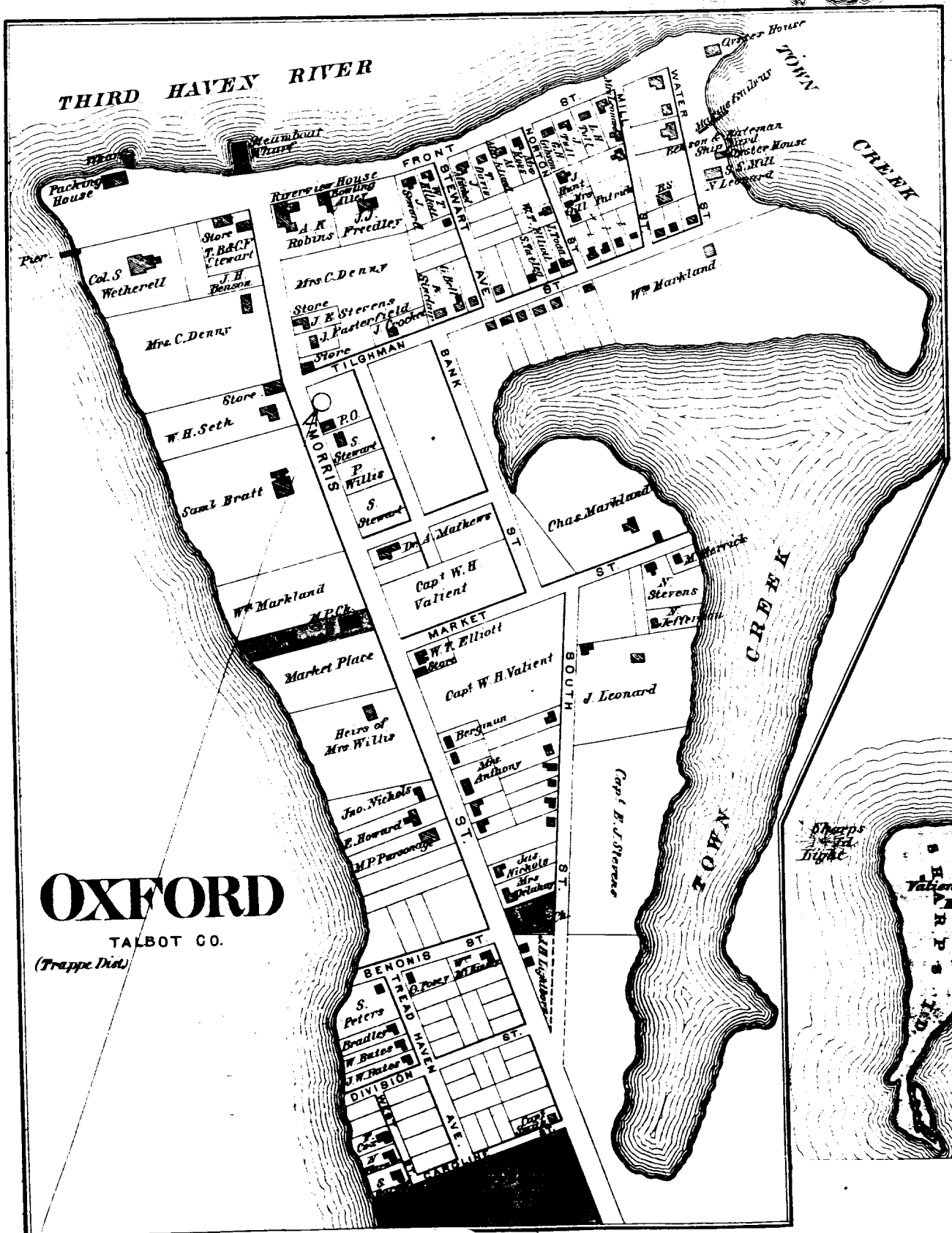
to

11/9/1893

Miss Annie L. Harrison

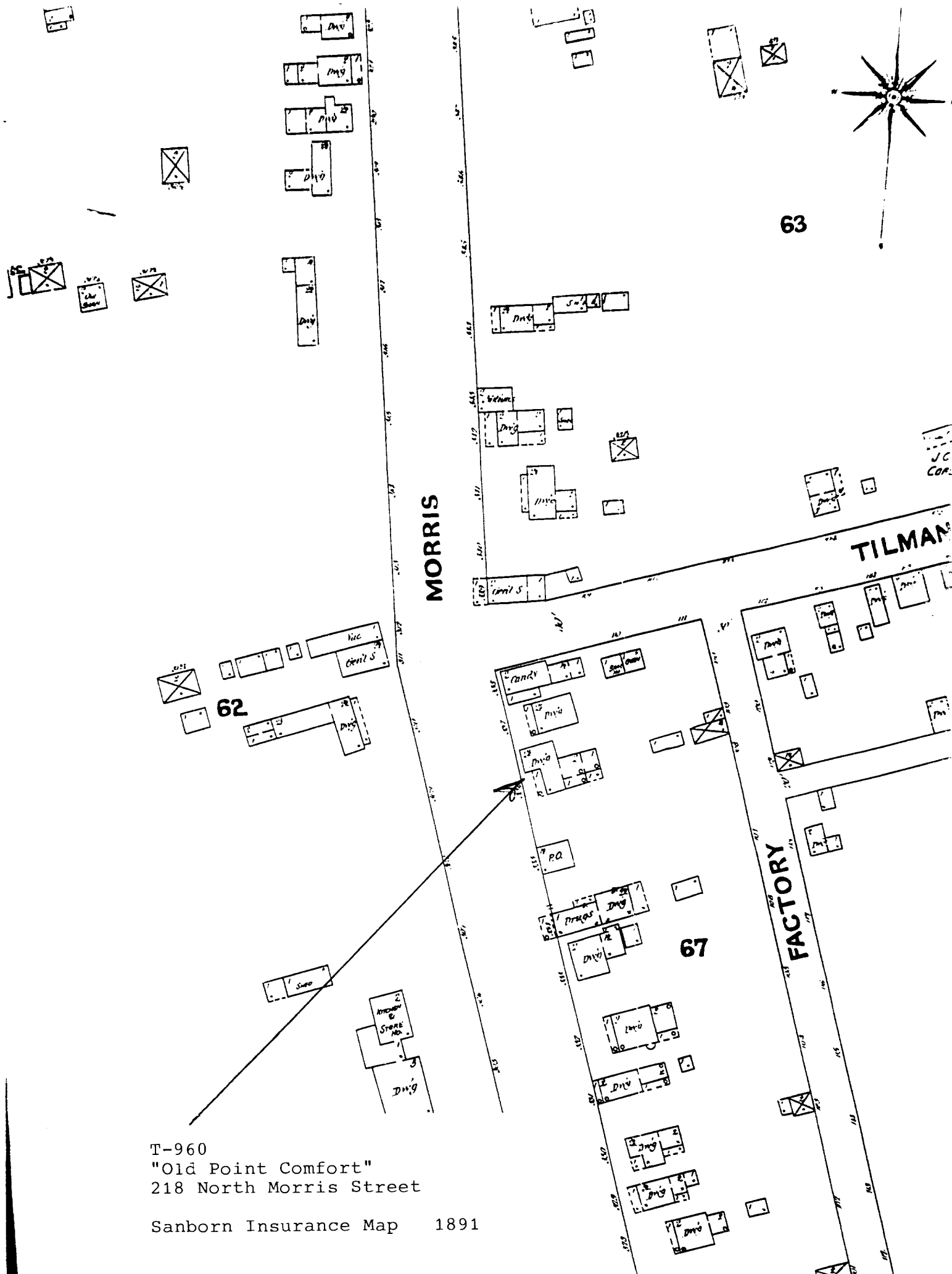
\$366.67

JAMES N. WESTON & SPEAKMAN, Proprietors of Steam Saw Mill. Manufacturers of Native Lumber. Custom Sawing done to order. Mill near Hambleton.



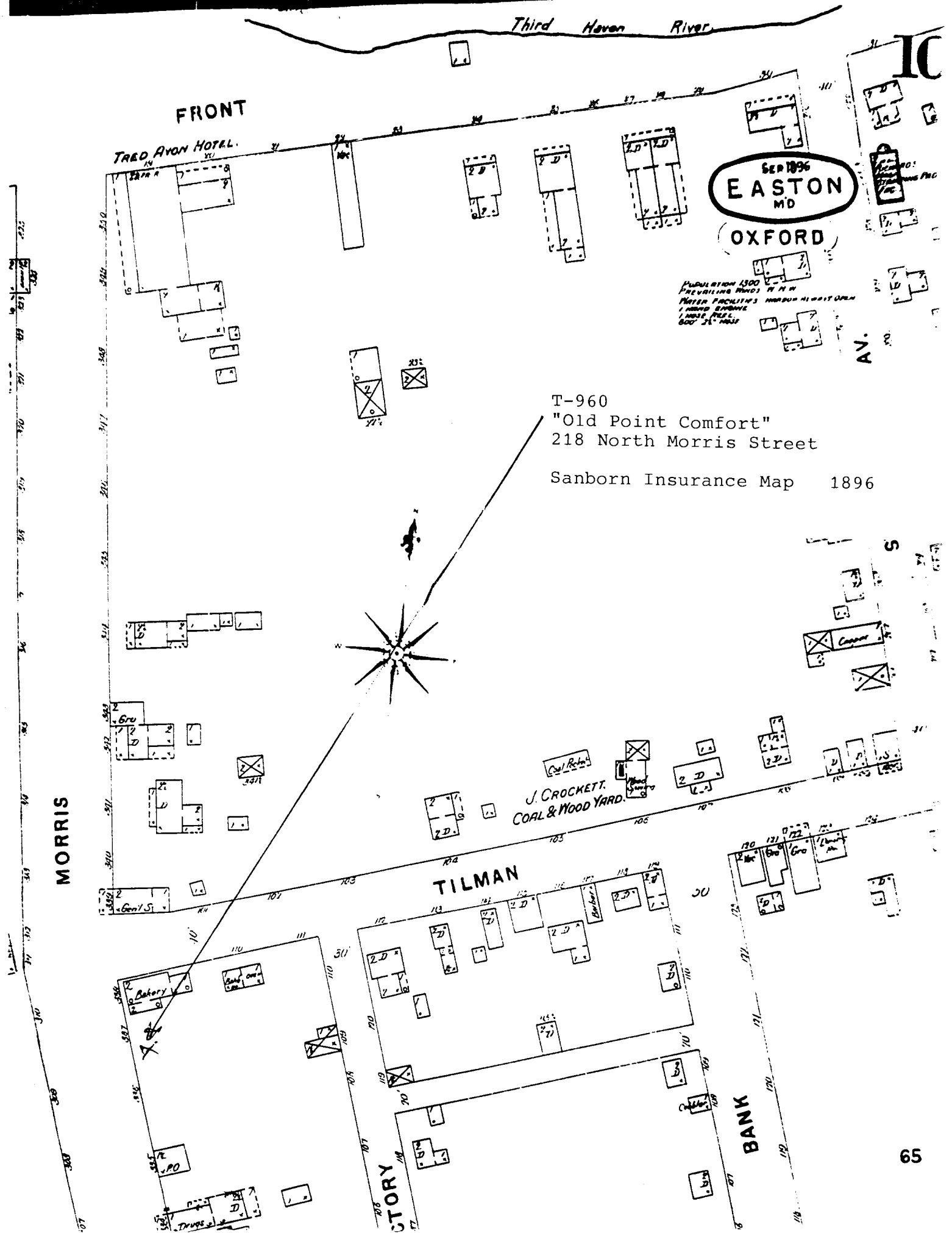
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 "Old Point Comfort"
 218 North Morris Street
 Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
 Atlas 1877



T-960
"Old Point Comfort"
218 North Morris Street

Sanborn Insurance Map 1891



FRONT

TRED AVON HOTEL.

SEP 1896
EASTON
MD

OXFORD

POPULATION 1300
PREVAILING WINDS N N W
WATER FACILITIES HARBOUR ALMOST OPEN
1 ARMED ENGINE
1 HOUSE REEL
800' 2 1/2' HOUL

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"Old Point Comfort"
218 North Morris Street

Sanborn Insurance Map 1896

MORRIS

TILMAN

J. CROCKETT.
COAL & WOOD YARD.

BANK

62

MORRIS

TILMAN

CROSS

FACTORY

67

66

Avon

River

BAYSIDE PACKING CO.
(DISCONTINUED)

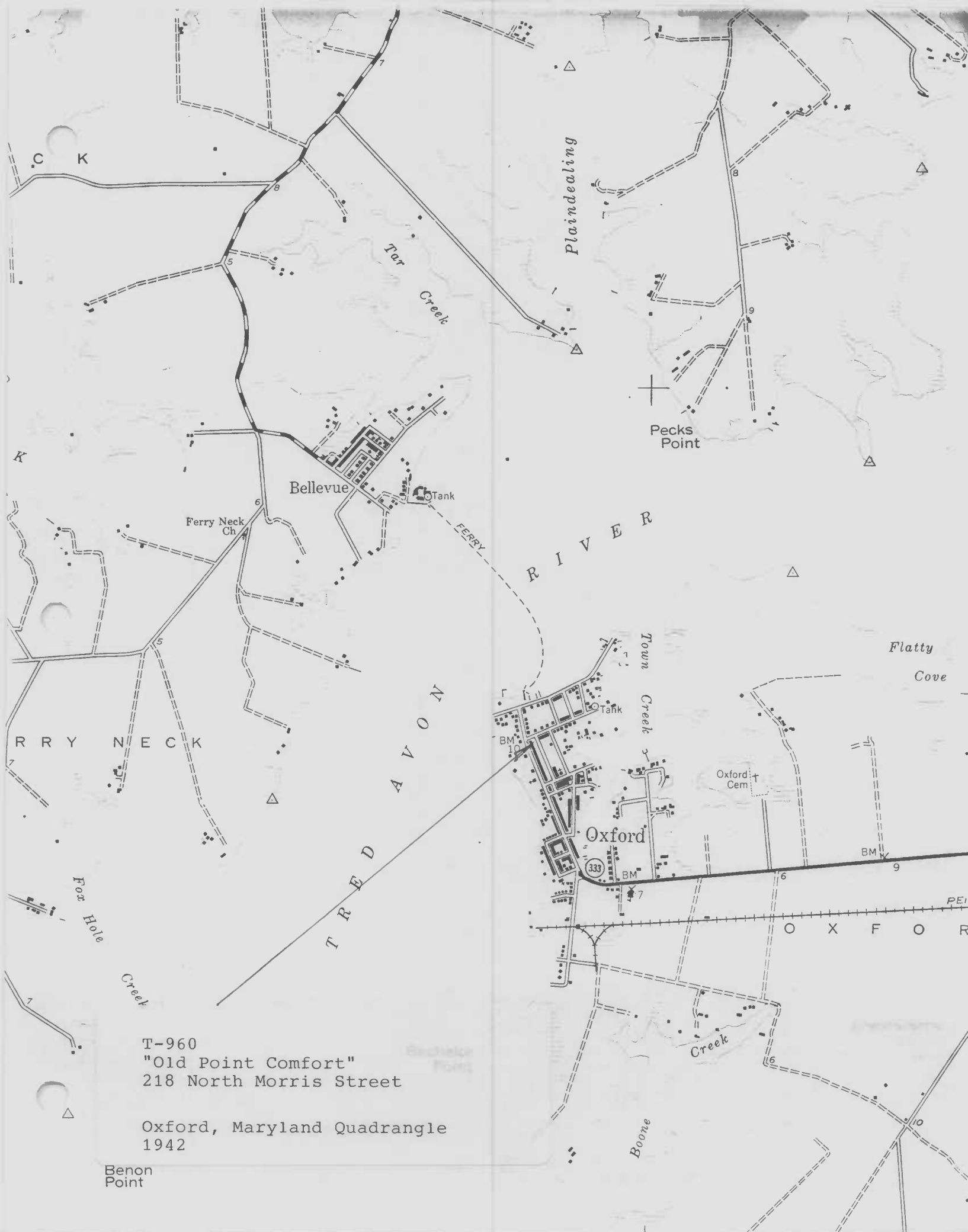
Vacant

T-960

"Old Point Comfort"

218 North Morris Street

Sanborn Insurance Map 1901



T-960
"Old Point Comfort"
218 North Morris Street

Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

Benon
Point



7-960

1 1 1 1



T-960

"Old Point Comfort"
Oyster, Talbot County, MD.

Nest elevated

5/98, Paul Tourist, PHOTOGRAPH

NEL. (MD. HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

2016



4-960

"Old Point Comfort"

Oxford, Talbot County, MD.

North Elevation

5/98, Paul Tourant, Photographer

Neg. / MD Historical Trust

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+ - 960

"Old Point Carbon"

Oxford, Tarrant Co., Miss

MISS ELEVATION - ENTRANCE

5/90, Paul Town, Pennsylvania

NEB. / MISS HISTORICAL TRUST

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Old Point Comfort
Oxford, Fairfax Co., Va.

West elevation

5/98, Paul Tourist, Photomicrograph
Nub / M.D. 1850-1860 5 feet

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T-965
Rock Point, Calmar
Dyersburg, Tipton Co., MO.

NEST ELEVATION

5/98, Paul Tourant, PHOTOGRAPHIC
NRA / MO. HISTORIC TRUST

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